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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

DECEMBER 19, 2002

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for December 19, 2002. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICS, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS  
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2. TGS: NO WAR PREPARATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST (All papers) Regarding the reports of deployment of Turkish soldiers along the Iraqi border, the Chief of General Staff denied having made comprehensive build-up and taken extraordinary measures, other than "routine preparations toward possible developments in the region."

3. CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST WAR (Evrensel) A group of intelligentsia and authors who met for an activity organized by the Diyarbakir chapter of Human Rights Association (HRA) called on the public, mass organizations and political parties to oppose the possible U.S. attack on Iraq. They pointed to "hard-to-repair wounds" in case of such a war and underscored the need to disrupt the war plans.

4. ADANA HRA: U.S. CENTER OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (Evrensel) In a (December 18) press conference, Adana Human Rights Association (HRA) members pointed to continued rights violations, saying those who filled the earth with blood, tears, fire and gunpowder are now warmongering. They described the U.S. as the center of human rights violations, torture and dirty war methods. Anti-war slogans were shouted during the conference.

5. KURDISH SONGS NOT SEPARATIST (Radikal) The trial of nine people, including seven teachers, indicted for "assisting and abetting the PKK" by forming a band and singing "separatist" (Kurdish-language) songs at the ordinary Congress of the Diyarbakir chapter of the Teachers Union Egitim-Sen is scheduled to continue on December 19. The court reportedly received an expert witness report from the state-run Turkish Radio and Television (TRT), which made an analysis of the recordings of the songs, saying that all the songs were about love, nature and longing. TRT also provided the court with a translation of the songs as well. The National Education Ministry had dismissed five of the seven teachers. The teachers for whom prison terms of three years and nine months are requested may now be reinstated. The other two suspects, Hayrettin Altun and Medeni Alpkaya, are charged with "delivering speeches in support of the PKK's Kurdish-language education campaign and displaying pro-mother tongue education banners."

ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS  
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6. RUSSIAN INVESTMENT IN KILIS (Turkiye) Russian firm Kornet and the Kilis Governor's Office signed a protocol agreement to establish a factory that will produce champagne and wine. Kilis Governor Aslan Kutuk said the factory, which is expected to go on line within two years, would cost USD 20 million to build and create 400 new jobs. Kornet's Turkish partner Alaattin Sucu indicated the factory would process 100,000 tons of fresh grapes annually.

7. REPAIR OF ADANA AIRPORT IMPACTS PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

(Bolge) Adana Tourism Director Zeki Yilmaz predicted the closure of the Adana Airport to flights due to repair and maintenance would cause the provincial economy to suffer a loss of TL 1 trillion (approx. USD 625,000). The airport, which went under renovation on November 4, is expected to go back in service in mid-January.

#### 18. SALES DAYS BEGIN IN ADANA

(All papers) The Second Sales Days launched by the Adana Chamber of Commerce (ACOC) began with a December 18 march from the ACOC office to the Ataturk Park, where a ceremony was organized. ACOC President Saban Bas, Governor Oguz Kagan Koksali, the Seyhan and Yuregir district mayors, the Security director, ACOC board members, political party officials and others attended the ceremony. The sales, in which 350 firms are participating, runs until December 22.

HOLTZ